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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

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DO WSRIT 77-009

2 March 1977

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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Five Americans Currently Held by Kidnappers (Page 1)

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Chronology (Page A-3)

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TAB B - Terrorist Threats and Plans

[Redacted]

II. Europe

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IV. Africa

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V. Far East

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2 March 1977

ARTICLES

Five Americans Currently Held by Kidnappers

Recent kidnapings of U.S. citizens have increased the number currently being held captive to a total of five. Four of the victims are businessmen and one is a U.S. government employee. All of them were abducted in Latin America; one is being held in Venezuela, three in Colombia, and one in Guatemala.

The longest-held captive is Owens-Illinois executive William F. Niehous, who was kidnaped from his Caracas home one year ago on 27 February 1976 by a group calling itself the Revolutionary Commandos. Following several months of negotiations, Owens-Illinois met some of the kidnappers' demands over the objections of the Venezuelan government. However, the first real break in the case occurred on 21 July with the arrest of two men while they were attempting to collect a partial ransom payment. Subsequent arrests netted one of the suspected organizers of the kidnaping, Jorge Rodriguez. However, interrogation of Rodriguez was so severe he died in prison without revealing any information on Niehous' whereabouts. On 11 August, Mrs. Donna L. Niehous offered a ransom of \$467,000 for information leading to her husband's release. No response was received, and in the face of mounting criticism over its handling of the case, the Venezuelan government in October formed a task force to locate Niehous. This effort has also met with a lack of success. The last letter Mrs. Niehous received from her husband was in early July and no further proof of Niehous' safety has come to light since that time. Tenuous reports of Niehous' death surfaced in the Venezuelan press in January 1977, touching off extensive searches by Venezuelan police, but no reliable evidence of Niehous' fate has so far been discovered.

A second kidnaping occurred in Bogota when Gustavo Curtis, manager of Industrias Gran Colombia, a subsidiary of Beatrice Foods Company, was abducted from his car on 28 September 1976. The initial ransom demand, received in early October, was for \$5 million. Beatrice Foods Company negotiators have been in periodic touch with the kidnappers over the last several months and appear deadlocked on the

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ransom amount. The 19th of April Movement, the Colombian Army of National Liberation, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia terrorist groups have all denied any involvement in the Curtis kidnaping.

A third U.S. citizen, Peter Fried, was kidnaped, also in Colombia, on 27 October 1976 while on a business trip from the U.S. The motive for this kidnaping is unclear, but Colombian officials believe Fried was involved in narcotics trafficking, that his abduction was connected with negotiations for a purchase of marijuana, and thus his is purely a criminal case. Although the Colombian government has made several arrests, no firm information on Fried's whereabouts has been obtained.

Edmundo Brol, a naturalized U.S. citizen of Guatemalan extraction, was kidnaped by members of the Guatemalan Guerrilla Army of the Poor in Guatemala City on 7 February 1977. The Brol family believes the kidnapers are unaware of his U.S. citizenship. The kidnapers have demanded a \$500,000 ransom for Brol's release.

The latest kidnaping is the 14 February seizure of Peace Corps volunteer Richard Starr by the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces in a village approximately 100 miles from Bogota. The guerrillas, who fled with Starr into the mountains, have not yet made any ransom demands for his release.

Foreign citizens, especially U.S. businessmen, appear to be particularly tempting targets of terrorism in Latin America. Past successful kidnapings of foreign businessmen by terrorist groups in this area and the frequently spectacular ransoms received for their release have undoubtedly inspired many terrorist organizations to acquire funds via this route. Whether the recent kidnapings of U.S. citizens presage an upsurge of such incidents is difficult to judge. Certainly Colombian and Argentinian terrorist groups have demonstrated a penchant for kidnaping foreigners, and other Latin American terrorist organizations have conducted similar operations in the past. As long as terrorists continue to receive large ransom payments for the release of their kidnap victims, they will probably be sufficiently motivated to continue such operations.

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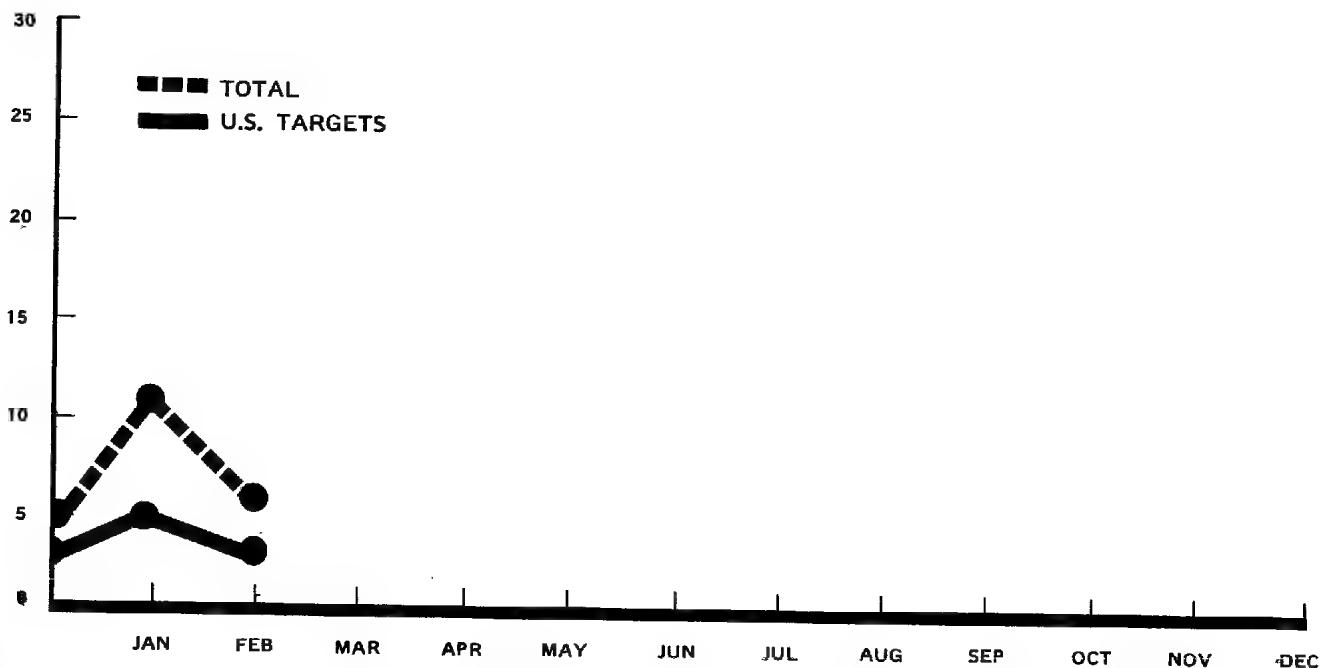
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INCIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS
AS LISTED IN WEEKLY SITUATION REPORTS — 1977



NOTE: THIS GRAPH DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT ALL INCIDENTS RECORDED
IN TAB A DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD, AS INCIDENTS WHICH LATER PROVE NOT TO
HAVE SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL SCOPE ARE OMITTED FROM THE MONTHLY TOTAL.

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SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST INCIDENTS BY TYPE - 1977

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Assassination	1	1											
Hijacking													
Kidnaping		1	2										
Barricade & Hostage													
Armed Attack		2											
Bombing		7	3										
TOTAL		11	6										

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2 March 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 22 February 1977

Cuban Military Attaché's Home Bombed in Lima

Place: Peru, Lima

Two bombs exploded at the Lima home of the Cuban military attaché on 22 February, causing considerable damage but no injuries. The persons responsible are unknown. The attaché's home is located adjacent to the official residence of the Cuban ambassador to Peru.

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2 March 1977

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 23 February - 2 March 1977 for the following areas:

- II. Europe
- IV. Africa
- V. Far East

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Plea Bargaining by TWA Hijacker (Page 1)

[Redacted]

TAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts

[Redacted]

II. Europe

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[Redacted]

V. Far East

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9 March 1977

ARTICLESPlea Bargaining by TWA Hijacker

On 2 March Mark Vlasik, a Croation-American, pleaded guilty in a New York state court to attempted kidnaping. He is one of five hijackers who seized control of a New York-to-Chicago Trans World Airlines jet on 10 September and forced it to fly to Paris. (See the 14 September 1976 issue.)

While in control of the flight, the hijackers directed police to a bomb placed in a locker in Grand Central Station. A bomb squad officer was killed and three other policemen were severely injured when the device went off as they were trying to dispose of it. The state of New York charged the five terrorists with murder, kidnap and assault; this indictment carries a maximum penalty of death. Vlasik's plea to the lesser charge of attempted kidnaping makes him liable to a prison term of between six and eighteen years.

Meanwhile, a controversy has developed over the handling of the next phase of the case. Federal and New York prosecutors agreed in February that the state would try the hijackers before they faced Federal charges. Last week the New York State Supreme Court set 7 March as the date for the beginning of the trial. The United States Attorney contended, however, that New York had taken too long in starting the trial and as a result the agreement between prosecutors was void. As now scheduled, the five hijackers will appear in Federal Court on 22 March, where they will be charged with air piracy.

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9 March 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 6 March 1977

Iraqi Embassy in Ankara Bombed
A bomb exploded outside the Iraqi embassy in Ankara on 6 March causing only minor damage to the building. According to a leaflet left at the scene, the attack was "in memory of Arab patriots and Kurds."

Place: Turkey, Ankara

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9 March 1977

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 3-9 March 1977 for the following areas:

II. Europe

V. Far East

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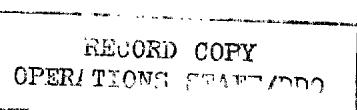
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16 March 1977

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Hijacking Sets Distance Record (Page 1)

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TAB B - Terrorist Threats and Plans

I. Western Hemisphere, Including United States

II. Europe

III. Middle East

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V. Far East

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16 March 1977

ARTICLESHijacking Sets Distance Record

The two-day odyssey of an Iberian Airlines Boeing 727, which had hopscotched between six cities on two continents, ended on 16 March in Zurich when Swiss police arrested hijacker Luciano Porcari, a 37-year old Italian. The plane had landed in Zurich to pick up an Iberian Airlines relief pilot and crew. Porcari was grabbed by the relief pilot and two Swiss policemen disguised as crewmen. During the scuffle one of the policemen was shot in the leg; none of the regular seven-man crew or remaining 15 passenger--all Spanish citizens--were hurt.

The ordeal began on 14 March when Porcari, armed with a pistol and a rifle forced the plane, which had taken off from Barcelona enroute to Mallorca, to fly to Algiers instead. After refueling in Algeria, the plane went to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where Porcari demanded local officials surrender his illegitimate three-year old daughter and \$140,000 in cash. The child and an undisclosed amount of money were given to the hijacker. The jet then returned to Spain, landing in Seville. After refueling, the Boeing 727 was forced to fly to Turin, Italy.

The plane was in Turin for two hours. During that time Porcari demanded that his estranged wife give him their five-year old daughter, that the aircraft be refueled and restocked with food, and that local officials give him \$120,000 in Italian currency. When all of his demands were refused, Porcari released seven of the passengers and ordered the crew to fly to Zurich.

Efforts by the Italian Consul-General in Zurich to exchange the remaining passengers for a fresh crew proved unsuccessful. Porcari then ordered the airliner be flown toward France, but the plane landed for a second time in Zurich about a half hour later. After releasing nine more passengers, the jet headed toward Turin again. This time it did not land. While the plane circled the city, Porcari unsuccessfully attempted a second time to convince Mrs. Porcari to release their daughter.

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16 March 1977

Saying he wanted to surrender to authorities in Moscow, the hijacker ordered the crew to fly to the Soviet capital. The plane was forced to land in Warsaw because of low fuel. At that point the pilot claimed he was exhausted. Porcari, apparently experiencing a change of mind, ordered the jet to become airborne again and to head for Turin for a third attempt to convince Mrs. Porcari to give him their daughter. The plane then landed in Zurich for a third time, to allow a relief crew to board. It was at that point that the hijacker was seized.

Porcari had once before tried to hijack a commercial flight. That earlier attempt, against an Alitalia plane, took place in Abidjan in 1972 when his wife decided to take their daughter back to Italy. Porcari had been overpowered after a shootout at the airport with Ivory Coast police.

Passengers who were released when the Iberian airliner landed in Turin described Porcari as a man given to sudden changes in mood. While airborne, Porcari served the passengers 12 bottles of champagne, toasted them and passed out autographed bank notes from the money he had obtained in Abidjan. Passengers said that during those periods he was a calm, friendly and courteous man. When the plane landed, one passenger observed, "He became wild, nervous, dangerous, and he instilled fear."

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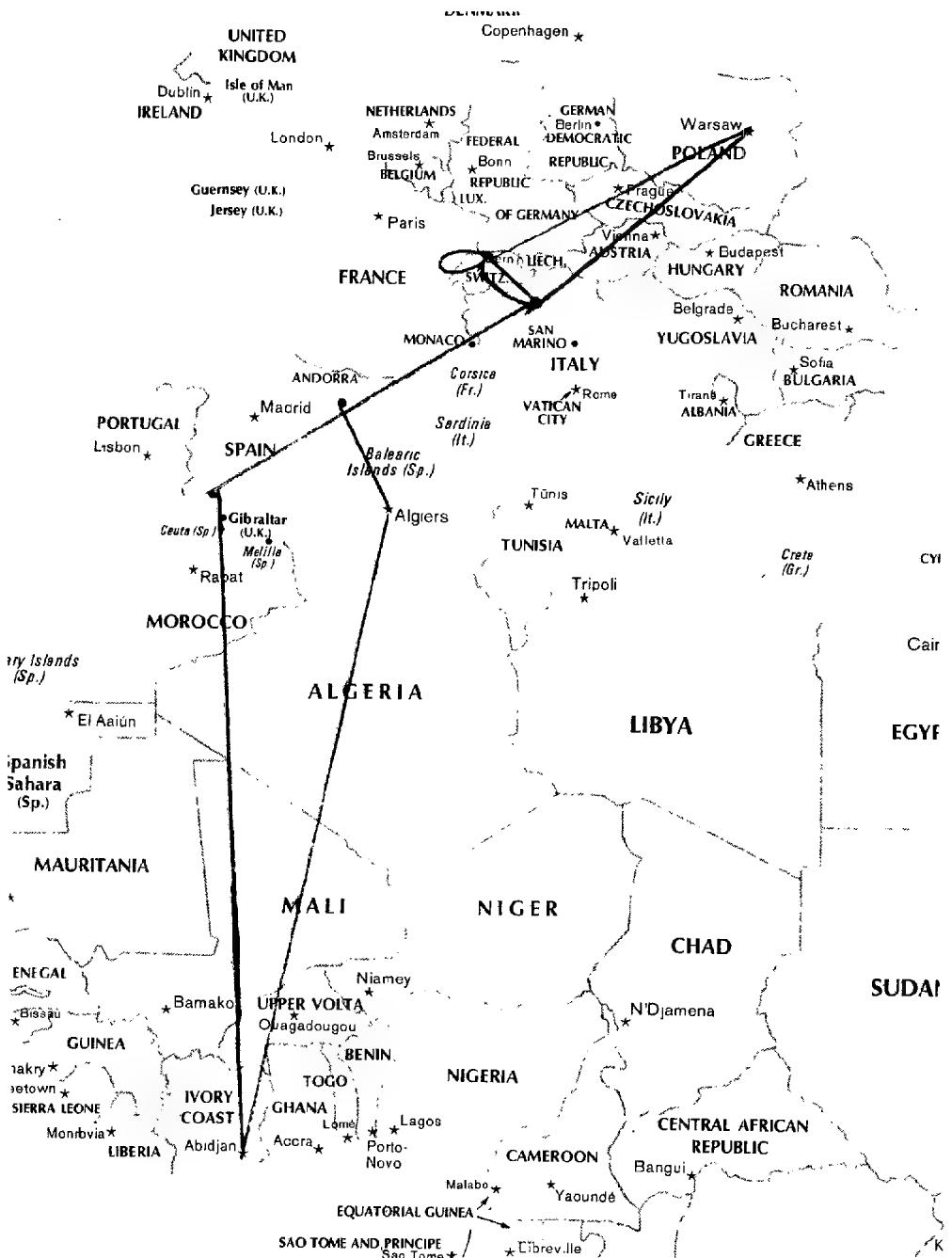
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16 March 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 14 March 1977

Place: Spain, Barcelona

Iberia Airliner Hijacked by Italian

An Iberia airlines plane on a domestic flight from Barcelona to Palma de Mallorca with 36 people aboard was hijacked on 14 March by an Italian man armed with a pistol and rifle. He directed the aircraft to Abidjan, Ivory Coast to pick up his three-year-old daughter. The hijacker then took the plane to Seville, Spain, next to Turin, Italy where several hostages were released, and then on to Zurich, Switzerland where more passengers were freed. From there the plane went to Warsaw, Poland and then back to Zurich where the hijacker was overpowered by Swiss police. During the struggle, one policeman was injured. All of the remaining passengers and crew were freed unharmed.

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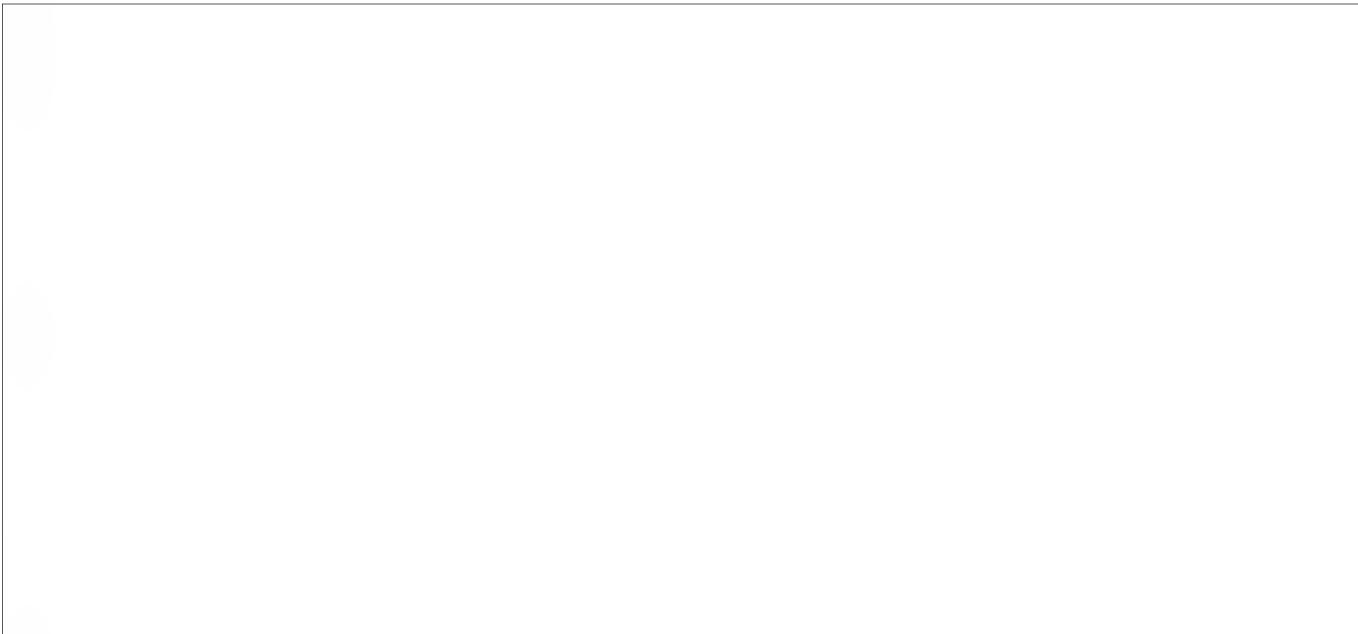
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16 March 1977

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Target: Former President
of Mexico

Place: Mexico, Cancun

Date: Unknown

** A previously unknown Cuban terrorist group called "Triple Eight" is planning to kidnap the former president of Mexico, according to a reliable source of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The purpose of the kidnaping is to secure the release of certain prisoners from Mexican jails. Arms and possibly explosives for use in the operation are allegedly cached in the Miami area and will be flown to Acapulco in a plane rented by the group. Surveillance of the former president's home near Cancun, Mexico is reportedly now underway.

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16 March 1977

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 10-16 March 1977 for the following areas:

II. Europe

III. Middle East

V. Far East

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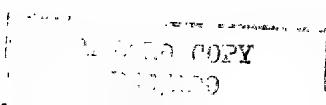
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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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23 March 1977

Articles:

Turkish Airliner Hijacked to Lebanon (Page 1)

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TAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts

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[redacted]
23 March 1977ARTICLESTurkish Airliner Hijacked to Lebanon

At about 2:15 in the afternoon on 19 March two Turkish teenagers took over Turkish Airlines domestic flight 259 and forced it to proceed to Beirut. The Boeing 727 was on its way from Diyarbakir, where the 18-year-old hijackers boarded, to Ankara. Two Americans were among the 174 passengers; the plane carried a seven-man crew.

During the flight to Lebanon one of the youths stood at the cockpit entrance pointing a gun at the flight crew while the other covered the passengers and cabin attendants. The plane landed at Beirut at 3:45 p.m., without authorization and running low on fuel. A Turkish embassy official conducted the negotiations, which resulted in the release of all the passengers at about 4:30.

Despite press reports that the hijackers had asked for ransom and transportation to the nearest Palestinian refugee camp, they, in fact, made no rational demands. They remained on the plane with the crew until about 7:00 in the evening when they surrendered to police. There were no injuries except for superficial wounds suffered by the co-pilot when an apparently accidental pistol shot ricocheted off the cockpit ceiling.

The two youths are now being held by Lebanese authorities in Beirut. The motivation behind the hijacking is unknown at this time.

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23 March 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 19 March 1977

Place: Turkey, Diyarbakir

Turkish Airliner Hijacked to Lebanon

A domestic Turkish Airlines flight from Diyarbakir to Ankara was hijacked on 19 March by two Turkish youths armed with pistols who ordered the plane flown to Lebanon. Shortly after the aircraft's arrival in Beirut all 174 passengers, including two Americans, were released unharmed. The hijackers surrendered later the same day and are now being held by Lebanese authorities. (See Article.)

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Date: 20 March 1977

Place: Ethiopia, Addis Ababa

Molotov Cocktail Attack on USIS Building in Ethiopia

Three molotov cocktails were thrown at the USIS building in Addis Ababa on 20 March. The premises were unoccupied at the time except for local guards. Two of the bombs, thrown from a moving car, fell short of the building. The third struck an upper window but did not ignite. The persons responsible are not known.

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30 March 1977

Articles:

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TAB A - Chronology of Significant International Terrorist Acts

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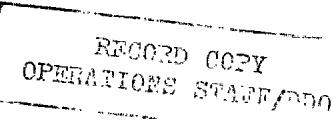
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30 March 1977

NOTES

Kurdish Rebels Release Foreign Hostages

Seven foreigners--four Poles, two Frenchmen and an Algerian--who had been held hostage by Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq have been freed. The Kurdistan Democratic Party, in its 29 March announcement in London of the release, appealed to the Polish, French and Algerian governments to intervene to halt what it called the massacre of Kurds by the Iraqi Army.

At the time the four Poles were kidnaped last December, the Kurdish rebels demanded the Iraqi government free imprisoned Kurds in return for the hostages. (See the 21 December 1976 issue.) The Frenchmen and Algerian were kidnaped in February. It is not known if any concessions were made to the Kurds for the release of the seven.

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U.S. Asked to Turn Over Hijackers

TASS announced on 28 March that crew members of the airliner commandeered in 1970 by Pranas and Algirdas Brazinskas have written President Carter demanding the return of the hijackers to the USSR. (See the issue of 21 September 1976.) The writers contend that the Brazinskases must stand trial in the Soviet Union for their crimes. During the hijacking, in which the plane was forced to go to Turkey, the stewardess was killed and several other members of the crew were wounded. The Brazinskases were convicted in a Turkish court of the death of the stewardess but were released from jail in a general amnesty in 1974. In September of last year both men were placed in custody for being in the United States illegally.

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30 March 1977

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World Cup Soccer Scores With Left Wing

Following a rash of firebombings on 24 March, the first anniversary of the military coup that ousted Isabel Peron from the presidency, the Montonero guerrillas announced that they will not engage in terrorism at the next World Cup soccer games, which are scheduled to be held in Argentina. In a communique mailed to the press, the Montoneros assured "players and technicians, fans, sports delegations and foreign journalists" that they need have no fear for their safety. The promise of temporary peace, unfortunately, offers little solace to those now in Argentina. The World Cup games do not start until July 1978.

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30 March 1977

BACKGROUND ARTICLE

JRA Operational Activities 1972-1976

Lod Massacre

In May 1972, JRA members Okudaira Tsuyoshi, Okamoto Kozo and Yasuda Yasuyuki were sent by the PFLP into Israel to perpetrate what is now called the Lod Airport massacre, in which more than 30 people were killed, including Okudaira and Yasuda. In June 1972 a PFLP spokesman readily admitted the PFLP had trained and dispatched the three terrorists on the Lod mission. Okamoto, who remains in an Israeli prison, was one of the prisoners whose release was demanded on several occasions by the PFLP, most recently by the hijackers of an Air France plane to Cyprus in September 1976.

JAL Hijacking

On 20 July 1973, a combined PFLP-JRA team hijacked a Japan Airlines (JAL) Boeing 747 as it departed Amsterdam's international airport. The aircraft finally landed four days later in Libya, where the terrorists destroyed the jet with explosive charges. Shortly after the incident the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representatives in London stated that the purpose of the operation was to force the Japanese to pay ransom for the release of the passengers, crew and aircraft, and then fly to Aden. The lone Japanese participant was identified as Maruoka Osamu. Maruoka was to have participated in the Lod Airport massacre but was sent back to Japan by the PFLP for unknown reasons shortly before the attack.

Singapore Attack

Several months later the PFLP and the JRA struck again, this time against the Shell oil refinery on Pulau Bukum Island near Singapore. Two PFLP terrorists and two JRA members set fire to one oil storage tank and attempted to blow up three others before seeking to escape from the refinery in a ferry boat. Shortly after they seized the ferry, the four men identified themselves as members of the JRA and the PFLP.

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In a press conference the day after the attack, a PFLP spokesman in Damascus described the operation as a warning to monopolistic, exploitative oil companies and as a rejection of the Geneva efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Palestine problem. Negotiations between Singapore authorities and the terrorists dragged out for seven days, and on 6 February five PFLP terrorists seized the Japanese embassy in Kuwait and demanded that the four Singapore terrorists be released and flown by the Japanese government to Kuwait. After the Japanese and Kuwaiti governments agreed to these conditions, the four Singapore terrorists were flown to Kuwait. There they were joined by five comrades, and all nine were flown from Kuwait to Aden and subsequently set free. The two JRA members at Singapore, who utilized alias passports, have since been identified as Yamada Yoshiaki and Wako Haruo.

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30 March 1977

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 26 March 1977

Sheraton Hotel Bombed in
Buenos Aires

Place: Argentina,
Buenos Aires

A bomb exploded in the Sheraton Hotel in Buenos Aires on 26 March, injuring nine persons. The explosion was one of six bombings in scattered parts of the city the same night. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

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Date: 29 March 1977

Gunfire Attack on U.S. Consul
General's Residence

Place: Turkey, Izmir

Unknown persons fired an automatic weapon from a passing car at the U.S. Consul General's residence in Izmir on 29 March. The attack caused considerable property damage but no injuries. The consul general and his wife were in the residence at the time of the attack. An unexploded pipe bomb was found in the street behind the house. Turkish police believe the attack is part of the current Turkish terrorist campaign to commemorate the 30 March anniversary of the death of terrorist Mahir Cayhan.

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30 March 1977

No significant terrorist threats were reported during the period 24-30 March 1977 for the following areas:

IV. Africa

V. Far East

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